

PAGE 2

*Staff "Yiks"

About "Yak"*

*Wages Raised:

Good or Bad?*

PAGE 3

*One Sparkle At

A Time...*

*Ebola Raises

Questions*

PAGE 6

*Ryan Vitera

Takes

State Tennis*

PAGE 7

*PepperJax

Review*

*Winter Movie

Anticipation*

VIKING SAGA

SkillsUSA
Join
Today!

Congrats
Ryan
Vitera!!
State
Tennis
Champ

Join Chess
Club

Meetings:
7:20 A.M.
and 3:40 P.M.



EDITORIAL: STAFF MEMBERS YIK ABOUT YAK



VIKING SAGA STAFF

Yik Yak, or as members of the *Viking Saga* staff would call it, "The App for Cowards," is declining in popularity, and for good reasons.

The intent of the app was for anyone to share his or her random thoughts in order to entertain other people.

However, this spiraled out of control and was instead used as a weapon of bullying. Though the craze over Yik Yak seems to have died down, students will still manage to twist any social media to their purpose of putting others down.

The specific reasoning behind bullying differs from individual to individual, but "that

"WE CALL OUT ANYONE WHO WOULD HIDE BEHIND TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE OTHERS FEEL BAD"

person" will always be out there, looking for others to prey on. The "job" of bullies has become easier, with the anonymity of new social media and technologies. [Yet, they should know that nothing in this world is truly anonymous].

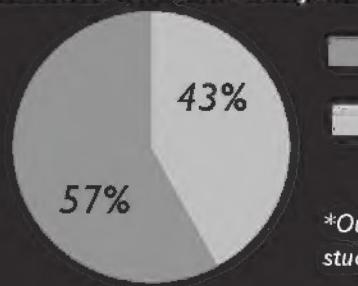
As a staff, we call out anyone who would hide behind technology to make others feel bad. The purpose of social media is not to hurt, but to keep friends together and stay in touch with the people we care about.

We give this challenge: set an hour aside to "clean house." Clear out those "friends" and followers that you don't actually know. If you judge your worth based on how many "friends" or followers you have, you may need to re-evaluate some things. Remove anyone who brings drama and negativity into your life; they aren't worth the trouble.

(If they throw a fit because you removed them, that might be a red flag that you didn't need them in the first place.) Be judged by the content of your character, not how "popular" someone might perceive you to be.

Use this time to break away from negative influences and break bad habits that might bring other people down. Stop "yakking" up negative comments and start "yikking" positivity.

Students who currently have a job:



*Out of 296
students polled

How much do you get paid an hour?

6%	\$2.00-\$4.99
2%	\$5.00-\$6.99
70%	\$7.00-\$9.99
17%	\$10.00-\$14.99
5%	\$15.00+

STUDENT POLL

WHAT IS A STUDENTS' WORK WORTH?

MATT MOFFET
Staff Writer

Insufficient The one word to describe the wages students in high school receive is, again, insufficient. What does this mean? Students all across our high school more than likely are employed through some sort of business and the wages of those students are more than likely near the realm of \$7.25 or 'minimal wage' to \$9. Since November 4th, it is clear that others share the same idea as this article. Multiple states, including Nebraska, have chosen to increase the minimum wage for all workers.

Now, I'm not going out and saying that we should receive outlandish amounts such as \$12-\$15. No, that'd be frankly insane to even suggest. What I am arguing is that we are to be paid an appropriate wage for fitting a busy work schedule into our already hectic real world schedule.

Being in high school is already time consuming; it's eight hours of straight brain activity. This and having a job in high school can feel like a juggling act, especially if you are

involved in extracurricular activities such as sports or programs like 14 Karat Gold.

A base wage of \$10.10 is the sweet spot according to economists — nobel prize winning economists. It should not matter if you are a student, an adult or a senior citizen. Everyone, including high schoolers, should be entitled to receive compensation for the work they do with no discrimination to age or current education standing.

Some, like tinfoil hat-wearing Fox News fanatics, will argue that raising the minimum wage [for everyone] will destroy America and turn it into a collapsed, Ebola-ridden, moneyless nation, but that is simply the most ridiculous thing to be muttered.

Now let's throw some information on the table; the minimum wage has been raised at least 15 times in the last 80 years. I personally am not using chickens as currency because of the previous increases of the minimum wage, am I?

Anyway, the push for a moderate, livable minimum wage is a good one and already has some fire behind it as the current presidential administration works to increase the federal wages, but conservatives, paid off by our corrupt system of politics, have delayed all at-

tempts to provide us Americans with a wage that is reasonable.

Even if you do not think that \$10.10 is reasonable and it should remain at its current standing of \$7.25, please take in account that most of those workers are going to be on food stamps, assistive living and other programs that are costing the taxpayers money that could otherwise be used in more sensible places.

As a student currently working a job and balancing school work, I can tell you it's not the easiest thing in the world and when you are being paid less than someone who receives a higher wage just because they are 2-3 years older than you, you feel like your contributions are not valued as highly. This could be compared to the arguments about wage inequality between males and females.

Just because I am in high school does not mean that I should not be able to receive the same or equal wage to someone that does not have to juggle school and work. Even though we may still be living at home, we are performing the same tasks and sometimes the same hours. Work should stay work and just because you're a student, it should not mean your paycheck takes a student discount.

VIKING

SAGA

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Outside submissions, suggestions, or letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. They may be brought to room 32, or emailed to Ms. Kavan at bkavan@ginorthwest.org. Any and all submissions must be signed for them to be considered for publication, and the editor reserves the right to edit or print any submissions.

VikingSaga

@nwvikingsaga

Visit our website:
nwvikingsaga.wordpress.com

EBOLA OUTBREAK FASCINATES AND CONFUSES POPULATION

JENNIFER CLEMENT

StaffWriter

Ebola, formally known as Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever [EHF], is a deadly disease that first made its horrific appearance in Africa back in the late 1970s.

Ebola is a contagious and fatal infection that caught the attention of Northwest students and staff after some of its victims came to the United States in early October.

This pestilence is contagious and is passed along from bodily fluids. It causes the carrier to experience flu-like symptoms during the first few weeks.

After the illness has spread throughout the human body, the liver and kidneys fail, ending with internal and external bleeding.

As more people with Ebola come to America, some students at Northwest began worrying that the disease would spread. Others worried about the fact that some Ebola patients were being held in Omaha, only two hours away from their homes.

"I feel like people are not

being as careful as they could. The nurse who got Ebola got it because she took off her gloves. If they were serious about this, they would be more careful," said junior Kalie Vodehnal.

The likelihood of dying from Ebola in the United States this year is very unlikely. Fear-struck people make jokes to relieve the worry and fear, and many students would talk about the disease regularly.

However, a person has a better chance of being picked up by a tornado and surviving than catching Ebola within the next year.

With the media hype surrounding Ebola, it was hard for students to not fall for the panic and misinformation.

Most people do not understand the facts, and that tends to lead to mass panic. However, if things are handled correctly, there should be no need to worry.

"[Ebola] is already in America. I can't tell the future, [but] if we don't watch guidelines, and if we don't quarantine the people who need to be quarantined,

we are going to have a problem. If someone is exposed to it, they need to be quarantined and protocols need to be followed," science teacher Stan Mills said.

The students and staff at the school are not openly scared of Ebola yet, but if the disease spreads or gets worse then there most likely will be an issue.

Although the simple idea of an outbreak may frighten most Americans, it should be known that if the country were to be plagued with the virus, plans have been made in attacking this disease.

All medical clinics in America are beginning the process of learning more about fighting the horrific virus, and are trying to guarantee a safer world in the future.

The disease may be deadly but the risk of contracting it is fairly low.

"I read a book about it [about how it first happened]: it sounds like a horrible way to die, but more people die [every year] from the flu," Mills said.

THE BONDS OF COMMUNITY

NORTHWEST STUDENTS AND STAFF SUPPORT "ONE SPARKLE AT A TIME"



Teacher Brian Sybrants embraces his daughter Katelyn after she returns home from her last chemo treatment. Family and friends lined the street to welcome his daughter home.

PHOTO BY TYLEN ARNOLD

TYLEN ARNOLD

StaffWriter

Cancer: This disease does not target specific people, and is prone to affect anyone at any given moment.

Despite the direness of such an illness, cancer is very common and many are affected by it every year.

Katelyn Sybrants, the five year old daughter of wrestling coach Brian Sybrants, was diagnosed with ependymoblastoma about nine months ago.

Discovering that one of his daughters had cancer was a traumatic experience for the Sybrants family.

"It was a change in lifestyle, because she [couldn't] be around a lot of people due to her weak immune system," Sybrants said.

However, Katelyn's family continues to believe that it has taught them to cherish life and take it one day at a time.

Katelyn has three other sisters; Kyla, Kamry, and Keely. The family all tried to lead a normal life, despite what Katelyn battled through every day.

However, the effects and reactions to such a situation had left a long lasting impact on them as a family.

"I think she [Stacy Sybrants] was really emotionally shaken [after hearing

the diagnosis]," Sybrants said.

Sybrants described his daughter as being a trooper through all of it. Katelyn managed to have a great spirit and always acted happy.

"No matter what she's going through, she always has a smile on her face," Sybrants said.

There also were numerous fund-raisers and donations for the family such as "Team Katelyn."

"I can't thank the student body and the staff and our administration enough," Sybrants said.

Wednesday, November 12, was the day that Katelyn Sybrants underwent her last chemo treatment.

People flooded the streets when the flashing lights of a police escort signaled the arrival of Katelyn.

Different students, teachers, and family members welcomed her home to show their support.

There are some patients that do not receive as much support and donations as Katelyn and to those Sybrants gives this advice:

"Take it one day at a time; you never know what's going to be ahead of you. Everyday's a new day. You gotta wake up with a positive attitude whether you think you can or not; If you don't, it's going to be a long road ahead of you," Sybrants said.



To view Katelyn's journey, visit her Facebook site, "One Sparkle at a Time."

Afraid of Ebola?

(There have been two recorded deaths from Ebola in the United States)

You are more likely to:

Get attacked by alligators (13 people a year)

Fall off the roof (6000 people a year)

Die in a bunk bed accident (20 people a year)

Be attacked by a cow (22 people a year)

Die in a car accident (92 people a day)

Get eaten by Syfy's "Sharknado" (16 people)

CHESS PLAYERS COME TOGETHER FOR LOVE OF STRATEGY

AUSTIN FRANCISCO
Staff Writer

"Chess is a fun and entertaining game that uses strategy and pits one mind against another," said junior Justin Fay.

Recently some students like Fay have started playing chess in the media center in the mornings and after school. Media specialist George Mohr is the teacher who supervises the students.

"We have had about 15 people show that they were interested (in chess club)...it's hard to say how many kids will get involved," said Mohr.

This group only started meeting very recently and was instigated through Mohr's advisement.

"Several of my advisees had been playing and they asked me if they could start a club and get other people be interested in it [chess]," Mohr said.

There are no real requirements to play aside from showing up at the media center. The students who meet and play chess enjoy themselves through friendly competition.

They play traditional chess and also variations such as four way chess. As chess relies heavily on strategy, it stimu-

lates people's minds.

"People have a chance to socialize and develop friendships; it is a good mental activity to plan ahead, and to trying think moves ahead," Mohr said.

There are theoretically more games of chess than there are atoms in the universe which makes chess a different experience every time it is played.

"It's a strategy game, so it's not just based on luck; so you have to think ahead and you have to read your opponent to know what they're going to do," sophomore Christopher Rosenlund said.

Those who already have a knowledge of chess are able to have fun with those who also know how to play. For those who don't know how to play chess, there is an opportunity to learn how to play through this club.

The chess club usually meets in the media center in the morning at around 7:20 a.m. and after school on most school days.

"Chess is a basic game that everyone should know because it's amazing and it really makes you think. If everyone played chess, then it would be really fun," Rosenlund said.

Chess Pieces (the basics)



King

Queen

Bishop

Knight

Rook

Pawn

The king can move one square at a time, in any direction. The king can never move himself into "check." If the king is captured, it's checkmate.

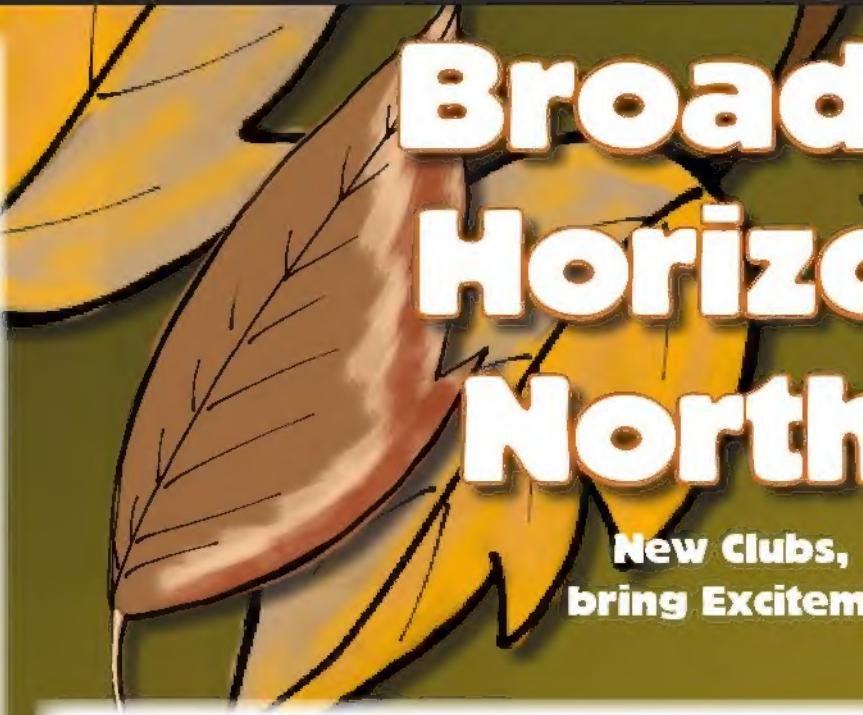
The queen can move in any one straight direction as far as she wants, but she cannot move over her own pieces.

The bishop moves diagonally, as far as it wants.

The knight moves in an "L" shape: two squares in one direction, and one more move at a 90 degree angle.

The rook may move forward, backward, and to one side or the other, as far as it wants.

Pawns can only move forward one square at a time (except their first move). They can only "capture" other pieces diagonally.



SKILLSUSA PROGRAM RET

BIBIANA LUEVANO
Editor-in-Chief

"This is the first year [Northwest has been involved with the SkillsUSA program] under my sponsorship. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce," industrial technology teacher Keith Dubas said.

SkillsUSA was the revised title of the original program which was founded in 1965.

"This program was formerly known as VICA 'Vocational Industrial Clubs of America' and was active at Northwest in the 80's and early 90's. It was discontinued because of the lack of sponsors due to other activities' conflicting schedules," Dubas said.

The current sponsor of this reemerging program is no stranger to the fundamentals of SkillsUSA. As a previous member of this program Dubas has chosen to uphold the mantle of being a staff representative for the club. His previous experience with the mechanics of such a program may help pave the way for the journey ahead.

"I was a Student Member from 1986-1991 at Northwest. I'd placed 5th, 1st, and 2nd in cabinetmaking, been a State Conference judge four times, and am an industry supporter," Dubas said.

Dubas encourages students to join SkillsUSA in order to involve themselves in activities that pique their interests.

"I feel SkillsUSA will help reinforce the value that trades and services people have in our society and that it will produce leaders from within the membership. [I'd recommend this program to] students that have an interest in industry and trades. [It is also for teenagers] who want to grow in their leadership qualities by serving their school, community, and learning a skill. There are many choices of specialization [students can choose from] or they can join just for the social and community service aspects," Dubas said.

The group has started out with a larger quantity of male students. Yet Dubas encourages female students to join as well.

"We will accept students, male and female, freshmen through their senior year. On a state and national level there are many female members. I have witnessed female students [who compete] in construction and cabinetmaking place well, but [they] have really dominated in website design, parliamentary procedure, cosmetology, medical, and photography as well. We also have male students at Northwest interested in the cooking competitions," Dubas said.

Competitions are going to be a common factor once a student becomes involved in the SkillsUSA club. Within each category members are encouraged to display the best work



LENING ONS AT WEST

**Technology
ent to School**

TURE URNS TO NORTHWEST

that they may procure. The subjects in which members are planning to compete in includes job interviewing, diesel equipment technology, opening and closing ceremonies, cabinetmaking, carpentry, motorcycle service technology, welding, t-shirt design and welding art sculptor.

"I will encourage students to fill competitions that I'm familiar with first, but if a student has a skill they want to showcase or develop in any other competition, I'm listening. The things I have learned from being involved with SkillsUSA have really helped guide me to where I am today. It's very gratifying to see the enthusiasm in the current students as they learn more about what the club can become," Dubas said.

As in any newly instated programs, whether or not they had any prior establishment within the school, funding is a constant requirement. The Northwest branch of SkillsUSA hopes to flourish with the assistance of those willing to invest in the group's purpose and mission.

"To attend the Fall Leadership Conference we were lucky that it was hosted in Grand Island, Nebraska at the Career Pathway Institute. Our membership paid 80% of their own way and received T-shirts, industry tours, leadership training, and a great meal. We are hosting a dodgeball tournament on November 20th to help get our chapter up and running. We also hope to have some industry sponsors to help with State Conference expenses," Dubas said.

SkillsUSA also provides a healthy competitive atmosphere for members to bask in. Northwest may even host a few competitions once the chapter has gained enough headway.

"Yes, we may have a small competition here to determine who will represent us at the State Conference in the spring [This conference will be held] at the Centurylink center in Omaha, Nebraska with state champions moving on in Louisville, Kentucky," Dubas said.

Although the SkillsUSA group has gained the required fifteen members, there are other students who have an interest in joining the program.

"SkillsUSA immediately caught my attention because it is a very inclusive program. Just about anyone could find something they are interested in and showcase their talents in that particular field; I believe SkillsUSA is a great way to really test your talents. It should really help to broaden your horizons and open up new perspectives in an individual's area of interest," senior Elizabeth Donovan said.

Donovan has expressed an interest in becoming an official member and even recommends that other students should join if they wish to grow in their skill.

"I think this program would be spectacular for anyone wanting to get out there, do what they love, and test their skills against other talented individuals," Donovan said.



INTRODUCTION OF NEW TV SCREENS GIVES NEW WAYS TO SPREAD INFORMATION

ALYSSA LILIENTHAL

Staff Writer

The school has seen a few additions in the recent months, but they are not in the form of a new extension to the school's building, but an addition in terms of a few new flat screen monitors on the walls of the school.

Superintendent Matt Fisher and business manager Sharon Placke worked together with the help of technology coordinator Scott Potter to come up with a reasonable idea to share announcements and news with the student body.

"There are multiple reasons for the TVs. One reason is that it helps students get connected to the school. It started as a way to show student banners that would take up the whole gym," said Placke.

Soon after the first monitor was put into place, the benefit of additional monitors came to light.

"The students will be able to view the games live, letting them be able to view it all through the school," Placke said.

Another monitor was installed to provide students with an easy, alternative way of viewing previous and current yearbooks in a convenient and practical manner.

Students will be able to view yearbooks from 1965 to the past school year. This ability provides an insight to Northwest's history.

All the yearbooks are being digitally

scanned and they are available on a touch screen by the school store. Students can touch each cover to see that year's book, and "flip" through the pages of the book to look through the past.

In addition, there are multiple screens placed adjacent to each other to create a much larger display in the new gym. These will be in the spotlight at home volleyball and basketball games, and home wrestling meets.

"The TVs were in the gym because then we could show all the senior pictures, [instead of using] the banners that would take up so much room," Placke said about the big screens in the gymnasium.

In the past, seniors could purchase a "senior banner" with their photo and activities displayed, but the banners took up a large area of wall space.

The lobby television (in the front main hallway) which has been available for the longest period of time is for a different purpose.

"[The monitor by the Central Office is for] running announcements and info we have to put out to the students; ultimately we are looking at all the screens for that purpose," Fisher said.

The booster club arranged for various local business to purchase advertisements which will basically pay for the televisions.

"We just [have to] get all the connections made and tied together," Fisher said.

Where are the Screens, and What do they do?



In the Lobby:

The monitor runs announcements and information to put out to the students that they may need to know



By the School Store:

A company was hired to digitally scan all yearbooks so students can access them.



In the New Gym:

For all senior banners and advertisements that fund the technology

VITERA TAKES STATE

TYLER CLEMENT
Staff Writer

For six years, Northwest has offered boys tennis through a cooperative program with Grand Island Central Catholic. For the past five years, one Viking senior has been playing tennis, working on his game.

As a senior, Ryan Vitera's work was rewarded with a State Championship in Mens #2 Singles.

Vitera had devoted his time and abilities to a sport he was passionate about.

"I've loved tennis for five years. I [think I] have some natural ability and it is really fun. I love going to practice," said Vitera.

State tennis was on October 17th, 2014. Vitera won the game in the final match and became a state champion.

A Northwest athlete has not won a State tennis title since tennis was introduced as a sport.

Vitera had an impressive

season, with a 32-3 record. His State championship was a grand finish to his high school tennis career.

"[It feels] amazing [to win State]. It feels like [all of my] hard work paid off. I was the number one seed that day. I was nervous... very nervous. We were the

"TENNIS IS A LOT OF HARD-WORK AND DEDICATION, BUT IF YOU TRULY LOVE IT, IT'S THE GREATEST SPORT OUT THERE."

-SENIOR RYAN VITERA

third team overall."

In addition to competing in Mens #2 Singles, Vitera would also sometimes play in Mens #3 Doubles with Central Catholic senior Quentin Harshbarger. The duo were undefeated for the four matches they played as a team.

The tennis season started in August and ended in October. Practices started

at 5:30 pm and sometimes ended late into the night at 10:30 pm, but that did not faze Vitera.

"Tennis, to me, is more than just a sport; it is a passion. I never get tired of it, and I've only been playing for five years. Tennis is a lot of hard-work and dedication, but if you truly love it, it's the greatest sport out there. Tennis requires endurance, speed, and accuracy. It is a relatively difficult sport to learn, but I think that if you practice enough, anyone can play it. It's a great sport," Vitera said.

Vitera was not the only Northwest tennis athlete on the team; he had teammate junior Justin Fay as well.

"It was nice for him making it to State; Ryan was helpful to the underclassmen. [He taught] them the basics, and he acknowledged everyone by showing everyone the respect they deserved," Fay said.



Senior Ryan Vitera plays in a match of tennis, prepping to serve the ball to his opponent. After a 32-3 season, he won the Mens #2 Singles State Championship.

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DUMBER TO

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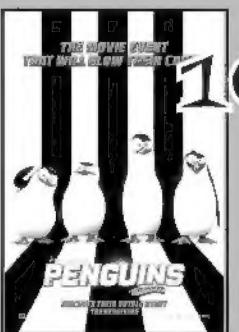
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THE FIVE
ARMIES

14%



10%

BIG HERO 6

PENGUINS OF
MADAGASCAR

10%



INTERSTELLAR

6%

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PEPPERJAX GRILL BRINGS A NEW TASTE TO GRAND ISLAND

ALYSSA LILIENTHAL
Staff Writer

PepperJax Grill is a new restaurant in Grand Island, and I was one of the early customers shortly after its grand opening.

I walked into a warm and comfortable place; the atmosphere was bright and happy.

It was clean but very claustrophobic as the chairs and booths were very close together and there was not much room to bustle about. People were literally back to back.

I was confused; there was no one to show me how to start this food journey.

I had to stop and ask a worker where to start. He handed me a menu and commented that they are famous for their Phillys before he walked away.

Confused and hungry, I pushed on and went to the window where they were cooking the food, which was pretty neat; being able to see it be made right in front of you!

Then I ordered my food, a steak Philly and a side

salad.

The woman cooking was very kind and the whole staff seemed to click with each other; they were all very happy and willing to help each other.

The Philly I asked for was plain, but there were many options available such as chicken and vegetarian, and you can even double the meat for a bigger meal.

If you ask for a "FireBall," they will grill it in jalapeno juice. You can also add cheese, peppers, onions and mushrooms.

The Philly was the perfect temperature; the bread was an awesome amount of chewy; not soggy and not too dry.

On the salad I had all of their wonderful toppings including mushrooms, peppers, olives, sliced carrots, cheese, chopped tomatoes and spinach.

The salad was fresh, the crispy lettuce and delicious toppings came together perfectly; it was a very tasty meal.

When finished I was very happy and I enjoyed it. I rate it 4 stars out of 5!

PepperJax Grill
FAMOUS PHILLIES & MORE



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